THE WEDDING OF THE ROSE AND THE LOTUS.

A POEM WRITTEN ON THE NEAR-COMPLETION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, SHOWING HOW THE GENIUS OF THE WEST, HERE TYPIFIED BY THE ROSE, AND THE GENIUS OF THE EAST, HERE TYPIFIED BY THE LOTUS, ARE TO BE MERGED AND MINGLED IN ONE.

NICHOLAS VACHEL LINDSAY, RHYMER AND DESIGNER:-
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS.

NICHOLAS VACHELL NOYAY.

THE WIDE PACIFIC WATERS
AND THE ATLANTIC MEET.
WITH CRIES OF JOY THEY MINGLE,
IN TIDES OF LOVE THEY GREET.
ABOVE THE DROWNED AGES
A WIND OF WOOING BLOWS:—
THE RED ROSE WOOS THE LOTUS,
THE LOTUS WOOS THE ROSE.....
THE LOTUS CONQUERED EGYPT.
THE ROSE WAS LOVED IN ROME.
GREAT INDIA CROWNED THE LOTUS:
(BRITAIN THE ROSE'S HOME).
OLD CHINA CROWNED THE LOTUS,
THEY CROWNED IT IN JAPAN.
BUT CHRISTENDOM ADORED THE ROSE
ERE CHRISTENDOM BEGAN.....
THE LOTUS SPEAKS OF SLUMBER:
THE ROSE IS AS A DART.
THE LOTUS IS NIRVANA:
THE ROSE IS MARY'S HEART.
THE ROSE IS DEATHLESS, RESTLESS,
THE SPLENDOR OF OUR PAIN:
THE FLUSH AND FIRE OF LABOR
THAT BUILDS, NOT ALL IN VAIN.....

THE GENIUS OF THE LOTUS
SHALL HEAL EARTH'S TOO-MUCH FRET.
THE ROSE, IN BLINDING GLORY,
SHALL WAKEN ASIA YET.
HAIL TO THEIR LOVES, YE PEOPLES!
BEHOLD, A WORLD-WIND BLOWS,
THAT AIDS THE IVORY LOTUS
TO WED THE RED RED ROSE!

NICHOLAS VACHEL LINDSAY 1913.

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